

Highlands Soccer Association Inc.

ABN: 71 417 273 069 Assoc. No. Y0535926
PO Box 2221 Bowral NSW 2576
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Highlands Soccer Association – Board of Directors 2023

Chair – Danny Josipovic

Executive Director & Director of Records, Competition Integrity and Governance – Liz Norrie

Director of Competitions – Cathie Campbell

Director of Finance – Thomas Goodman

Director of Strategic Planning – Craig Patterson

Director of Media, Women and Community Football – Kate Godyn

Director of Sponsor Relations – Dave Wright

Director of Referees (appointed) – Andy Bell

Highlands Soccer Association – Staff 2023

Manager – Michael Hamilton (up to his resignation on 5th May 2023)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2023 has been a year of change for the Association. Following much deliberation, a business decision was made to delete the Association's Technical Director position at the end of 2022. This was followed one month into the season with the sudden resignation of the HSA Manager. Compounding things further, as a result of family health issues, I removed myself from HSA operations. The Association was facing a huge manpower void at a time when new match day processes were being introduced and a new referee body was being implemented. I cannot thank the HSA Board members enough; they stepped in to cover the shortfall, in particular thank you Liz Norrie, Cathie Campbell and Andy Bell. Thank you again. For 2024, the Board will restructure itself to bed in and improve on the changes made in 2023.

I would like to thank all the Clubs, their committees and their volunteers for their support of the Board and for the game this year. Without you nothing would happen.

In 2022, despite positive appearing progress, joint football operation between HSA and STFA fell apart at the last minute; STFA decided to confine their operations to the STFA exclusively. Strategic discussions have already taken place with STFA for 2024.

In 2023, the Association decided to go paperless with DRIBL for competition management and referee appointments. Needless to say, there were varying degrees of pain. We hope that DRIBL is bedded in better for 2024.

For 2024, Highlands FC is being repositioned to meet the demand for representative small sided/SAP teams as well as junior teams. It is still a work in progress which we expect to be completed by the commencement of the 2024 season.

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS REPORT

Team Nominations

HSA received the following nominations from our member clubs and schools for the 2023 winter season.

	Bowral	Bundanoon	Exeter	Gib Gate	Hill Top	Mittagong	Moss Vale	Oxley	Robertson	Tudor House	Yerrinbool	TOTAL
U6	5	1	1		2	3	1		2	2	1	18
U7	5	2	1	1	1	3	4	1	2	2	1	23
U8	4	1			2	2	2	2	1	2	1	17
U9	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1		1	15
U10	5					2	2	2	1		1	13
U11	3	1	1		1	2	1	2	1		1	13
U12	3						1	2				6
U13		1			1	1	1		1		1	6
U14												
U15	1	1				1	1		1			5
Youth												
AAM PL1	1								1			2
AAM PL2	1				1	1	1		1		1	6
AAM HL	1	2	1		1	1	1		1		1	9
AAW PL1					1		1		1			3
AAW PL2	1					1	1		1		1	5
	33	10	5	2	11	19	19	11	15	6	10	141

Competitions

From the above nominations the HSA Competition Committee determined that the following competitions would be conducted:

- MiniRoo – Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
- Juniors – Under 13, Under 15 with the following finals format:
 - Under 13 – Teams finishing 1-6
 - Under 15 – Teams finishing 1-4
- Youth grade – Insufficient entries to run a stand-alone competition
- All Age Men – Division 1, Division 2 with the following finals format:
 - AAM PL1 - Teams finishing 1-4 in the Division 1 competition.
 - AAM PL2 - Teams finishing 5-8 in the Division 1 competition
 - Highlands League - Teams finishing 1-6 in the Division 2 competition.
- All Age Women
 - AAM PL1 - Teams finishing 1-4 in the combined competition
 - AAM PL2 - Teams finishing 5 -8 in the combined competition

Rounds Played

The following rounds were scheduled for each competition:

- MiniRoos – 17 rounds
- Under 13 – 17 rounds
- Under 15 – 15 rounds
- All Age Men – Premier League – 14 rounds
- All Age Men – Highlands League – 15 rounds
- All Age Women – 14 rounds

Finals Series

For Under 13 through to the All Age competitions a 3 week finals series was played from September 2 to September 16.

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS AND COMPETITION INTEGRITY REPORT

2023 HONOUR ROLL

SENIOR COMPETITION

- **All Age Men PL1:**
 - Minor Premiers – Bowral White
 - Grand Final Winner – Mittagong
 - Darryl Kill Memorial Trophy – Bowral White
- **All Age Women PL1:**
 - Minor Premiers – Hill Top
 - Grand Final Winner – Hill Top
 - Noelene Munro Cup – Hill Top
- **All Age Men PL2:**
 - Minor Premiers – None
 - Grand Final Winner – Bowral Blue
 - Liberale Trophy – Hill Top
- **All Age Women PL2:**
 - Minor Premiers – None
 - Grand Final Winner – Yerrinbool-Bargo
 - Chris Jacobs Cup – Bowral
- **All Age Men Highlands League**
 - Minor Premiers – Bundanoon Blue
 - Grand Final Winner – Bundanoon Blue
 - George Auld Cup – Bowral
- **All Age Men Youth Grade:**
 - Not played in 2023

JUNIOR COMPETITION

- **Under 15:**
 - Minor Premiers – Moss Vale
 - Grand Final Winner – Moss Vale
 - Jan Plain Cup – Robertson-Burrawang
- **Under 13:**
 - Minor Premiers – Robertson-Burrawang
 - Grand Final Winner – Bowral Rangers
 - Antony Liberale Memorial Trophy – Robertson-Burrawang
- **Under 11:**
 - Michael Sant Cup – Bowral Bandicoots
- **Under 10:**
 - Beryl Fitzgerald Memorial Cup – Moss Vale Red

OTHER COMPETITIONS AND CUPS

- **Australia Cup:**
 - Round 2 - Marulan 5 defeated St Ives 2
 - Round 3 - Northern Tigers 6 defeated Marulan 0, Mounties Wanderers 16 defeated Bowral 0
- **Pre-Season Cup:**
 - Not played in 2023.
- **Champion of Champions:**

This was played by the Minor Premiers of each grade apart from the Over 35 Men, which was a composite team.

 - Round 1: U13 Robertson-Burrawang lost to Northbridge FC, U15 Moss Vale lost to Lindfield FC, Over 35 Men defeated Rydalmere FC.
 - Round 2: AAM Bowral White lost to West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook FC, AAW Hill Top lost to Kellyville Kolts SC, Over 35 Men lost to Lindfield FC.
- **Atkinson-Price (Joadja) Challenge Cup:**
 - Not played.
- **AAM STFA/HSA Joint Cups:**
 - Not played.

AWARDS

- **Club Championship:**
 - Bowral FC
- **Fair Play Award:**
 - Hill Top SC
- **Golden Boot:**
 - AAM HL – Aiden Walker – Bundanoon Blue - 28
 - AAW PL2 – Anna Otieno – Yerrinbool - 13
 - AAM PL2 – Andrew Alice – Bowral Blue - 7
 - AAW PL1 – Rachel Moore – Hill Top - 14
 - AAM PL1 – Chris Wilson – Bowral White – 17
- **Golden Gloves:**
 - AAM HL – Isaac Martin (4), Alex Mabblerly (4)
 - AAW PL2 – Helga Fietz (3)
 - AAM PL2 – No award. No one over 1
 - AAW PL1 – Eleanor Handley (6)
 - AAM PL1 – Tom Burns (4), Lawrence Mullan (4), Jacob Clarke (4)
- **Player of the Year:**
 - AAM HL – Aiden Walker
 - AAW PL2 – Anna Otieno
 - AAM PL2 – Leslie Shanahan
 - AAW PL1 – Alyce Thompson
 - AAM PL1 – Josh Perizzolo

- **Service Award:**

- Liz Gorman
- Mark Hundy

- **Referee of the Year:**

In 2023 this award was renamed the Dave Noble Trophy for Referee of the Year.

- Andy Bell

RED AND YELLOW CARDS

There were 15 red cards and 166 yellow cards issued during the season.

The types of red cards given were:

- R1 - 1
- R4 - 1
- R6 – 3 (for abuse against a match official)
- R7 - 10

FORFEITS

There were 2 forfeits for MiniRoos games, 11 forfeits for competition games and 9 forfeits for Cup rounds:.

Distribution of forfeits by Club: -

- Bowral – 3
- Moss Vale – 4
- Gib Gate – 0
- Mittagong – 0
- Yerrinbool – 1
- Bundanoon – 4
- Hill Top – 2
- Exeter – 5
- Oxley College – 1
- Robertson – 0

Distribution of forfeits by age group/grade (including Cups): -

- U6s – 0
- U7s – 2
- U8s – 0
- U9s – 0
- U10s – 0
- U11s – 0
- U13s – 3
- U15s – 1

- AAM HL - 8
- AAM PL - 3
- AAW PL - 5

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REFEREES

In November 2022, at the Annual General Meeting of the Highlands Football Referees Association (HFRA), office bearer positions essential for the operation of the HFRA were declared vacant with no real prospect of these positions being filled. Consequently, the operations of the HFRA were put on hold indefinitely.

The Highlands Soccer Association (HSA) submitted a briefing paper proposing a new referee body, Southern Highlands Referees, offering opportunities to existing referees as part of a reset to improve the referee experience in the Highlands. The new referee body was to be led by the HSA Director of Referees. The proposal was endorsed by the majority of attendees to the HFRA AGM and further endorsed by the remaining registered referees. A formal paper was put to the executive of the HFRA requesting all property and funds were formally gifted to the new referee body; the paper was signed by the then President and Secretary of the HFRA.

In 2023, there were 25 registered referees and DRIBL was used as the new match appointment tool, dispensing with the Assignr system and the cost of the annual licence.

For 2024, the challenge for SHR is to continue referee recruitment, Level 4 referee courses and the introduction of Game Leader programs.

COACHING COURSES

A MiniRoos Coaching Course was conducted by Football NSW at Church Road Playing Fields on 19th June. It was a great achievement to have 21 HSA coaches attend the inaugural course. More courses are planned for 2024.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS

The inaugural HSA/Macarthur Bulls School Holiday Clinic was held on the 26th September at Church Road Playing Fields. There were 33 participants in age from 6 to 13 years old and it was a very successful and enjoyable day. It is planned to hold additional School Holiday Clinics throughout 2024.



REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

Highlands FC

In 2023 two HFC teams, U12s and U13s, participated in Football South Coast competitions.

The Under 12 team participated in the Under 12 Division 1 competition and the Under 13 team participated in the Under 13 Division 1 competition.

The Under 12 team finished second in the Division 1 competition and were runners up in the Grand Final to Bulli.

Both squads played in the Merino Cup in Goulburn and the Kanga Cup in Canberra.

HSA is looking forward to growing Highlands FC in 2024.

